

53. (NEW) A system for enforcing revocation in distributed systems, comprising:

a) means for asserting a time stamped validity assertion pertaining to the validity of an initial assertion;

b) means for asserting freshness constraints indicating a length of time and the initial assertions that the freshness constraints relate to; and

c) means for verifying that a relation  $|t_{now} - t_{time\ stamp}| \leq \delta$  is satisfied for each particular assertion necessary for verification of a secure channel, where  $t_{time\ stamp}$  is a time of a time stamp pertaining to the validity assertion of a particular assertion,  $\delta$  being a minimum necessary freshness constraint pertaining to the particular assertion and  $t_{now}$  being the time of verification.

54. (NEW) A system for protecting an authority of a distinguished principal and enforcing revocation when the authority is compromised, comprising:

a) means for issuing an authoritative assertion by a distinguished principal;

b) means for asserting freshness constraints on the assertion;

c) means for asserting a time stamped validity assertion to the assertion indicating the validity of the assertion at the time of the time stamp; and

d) means for verifying that a relation  $|t_{now} - t_{time\ stamp}| \leq \delta$  is satisfied for each particular assertion necessary for verification of a secure channel, where  $t_{time\ stamp}$  being the time of a time stamp pertaining to the validity assertion of the particular assertion,  $\delta$  being the minimum necessary freshness constraint pertaining to the particular assertion, and  $t_{now}$  being the time of verification.

55. (NEW) A system for issuing certificates in a system for enforcing revocation in distributed systems, comprising:

- a) means for issuing certificates for principals within an organization by the organization;
- b) means for asserting, by the organization, a principal authorized as an authority for issuing time stamped certificates;
- c) means for delegating authority for issuing time stamped certificates;
- d) means for asserting freshness constraints on assertions; and
- e) means for verifying that a relation  $|t_{now} - t_{time\ stamp}| \leq \delta$  is satisfied for each particular assertion necessary for verification of a secure channel, where  $t_{time\ stamp}$  being a time of a time stamp pertaining to the validity assertion of a particular assertion,  $\delta$  being a minimum necessary freshness constraint pertaining to the particular assertion and  $t_{now}$  being the time of verification.

56. (NEW) A system for system security in a distributed system network, comprising:

- a) means for preparing a statement of an assigned revocation authority in a distributed system network in response to a policy, said revocation authority statement being associated with an initial statement;
- b) means for preparing a statement of a freshness constraint period in the distributed system network in response to said policy, said freshness statement being associated with said revocation authority statement;